

Delaware Cabinet Committee on Climate and Resiliency

Draft Meeting Summary

December 12, 2016

Items distributed:

- Agenda
- Meeting notes from the last CCoCAR meeting on March 21, 2016
- Climate Action in Delaware: 2016 Progress Report
- Climate Action in Delaware: Adaptation Appendix

Introduction

David Small welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. He noted the goal of the meeting which was to approve the *Climate Action in Delaware: 2016 Progress Report* (Progress Report) that will be submitted to the governor. The Progress Report was developed as a follow-up to the *Climate Framework for Delaware* (Framework) which was released to the public in 2015.

Adaptation Overview

Jennifer de Mooy, DNREC Division of Energy and Climate, gave an overview of the adaptation portion of the Progress Report. This full-color document reports on the adaptation recommendations developed by 11 state agencies as outlined in the Framework. The Progress Report represents a summary of adaptation success stories that are being implemented.

The Adaptation Appendix provides a status report of all 155 adaptation recommendations across the 11 state agencies. This information was gathered from the spreadsheets provided by agencies in response to the governor's memo in April to report on progress. The Appendix is organized both by agency and by sector or theme. The four different sectors in which the recommendations are categorized are: 1) Public Health & Safety 2) Natural Resources 3) State Assets & Infrastructure 4) Resilient Communities and Economies. Organizing the recommendations by sector represents thematic ways of bringing them together that makes sense for future planning and also highlights interagency efforts.

Once approved and finalized, the Progress Report will be available in print and online; the Appendix will be posted online. One group member raised a concern that her agency does not have any stories highlighted in the Progress Report and thus it looks like her agency did not report on progress. To address this concern, the Division of Energy and Climate will post a combined Progress Report and Adaptation Appendix online, so that all agency activities can be viewed in addition to the stories highlighted in the Progress Report text. Cabinet Committee members were encouraged to link to the Progress Report from their own web pages or social media sites.

Document and Project Updates

Susan Love, DNREC Division of Energy and Climate, provided a brief update of Flood Avoidance Workgroup activities and products. The workgroup released its guidance document, “Avoiding and Minimizing Risk of Flood Damage to State Assets: A Guide for Delaware State Agencies” last spring. The document is online and available for download at www.de.gov/floodavoidance. The Department of Technology and Information is developing an online viewer so that users can easily access the document’s companion map, the Flood Risk Adaptation Map. The map is in beta testing and should be available to all users in January. The state’s sea level rise inundation maps are currently being updated by DNREC’s Coastal Programs. Susan indicated the need for agency staff training on the guidance and maps and will work on that in 2017. She will be asking the names of people in agencies that would benefit from this training.

Jennifer DeMooy reported that the Strategic Opportunity for Adaptation (SOFA) grants have been awarded. Of the 14 proposals received from 6 different agencies, 10 of those proposals were funded. All agencies have signed Memorandum of Agreement with DNREC and agency work is currently underway.

There are also two on-going pilot projects, the Climate-Ready Workforce Pilot Project and the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Project (CMAP). A consultant has been hired for the Workforce Pilot Project and they are currently doing a policy review as well as starting the stakeholder engagement piece of the project. The proposals for a CMAP consultant were due the day of this meeting.

Damien DeStefano from Governor Markell’s office gave a few words at the meeting. He thanked all the committee members for their hard work on climate change and noted that it is amazing how many things we’ve accomplished. He indicated that it is important to keep this going and said that preparing for climate change will be a large part of Governor Markell’s legacy.

Mitigation Overview

Morgan Ellis, DNREC Division of Energy and Climate, gave an overview of the mitigation portion of the Progress Report. The report includes updated greenhouse gas emissions information for the state; the most recent data available is from 2013 as there is a lengthy delay before data can be published to ensure completeness and accuracy. Trends in emissions by economic sector were highlighted. As expected, some sectors’ emissions went up while others went down. The economic sectors included in the Progress Report are transportation, electric power generation, industrial, waste, agricultural, commercial and residential. These sectors are defined by the US EPA. Emissions increased in the industrial and electric generation sector primarily driven by recovery from the 2008 recession. The other sectors reported decreases in emissions. Reductions can be attributed to multiple reasons. For example one reason why emissions in the transportation sector have decreased is because of the implementation of the federal Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards.

Next Steps are outlined in the mitigation portion of the Progress Report. One item listed is the development of a long-term greenhouse gas mitigation goal. An external review of the Climate Framework for Delaware was conducted in 2015, and reviewers suggested that long-term (2050 or 2080) targets for greenhouse gas reductions in the state be considered and codified. To begin a conversation about what those goals should be, the DNREC Division of Air Quality is modeling future

greenhouse gas emissions for each sector through 2100. They are also compiling information about strategies that can be undertaken to reduce emissions. These are the baseline steps for a larger statewide conversation and policy setting process. There was a concern voiced about the tradeoff of energy efficiency and establishing businesses in Delaware. One member noted it is important that we all come together to see how it will make a healthier Delaware. Secretary Small, DNREC, indicated that we will need to ensure that people have a good understanding of the goal and what it would take to reach it in order to gain support. The DNREC Division of Energy and Climate will be working with the Division of Air Quality and state agencies in the coming months.

Progress Report Approval

The Climate Change Agency Points of Contact received and reviewed several drafts of the Progress Report since September. Some sections have been more recently edited than others, such as the introductions, moving forward section and the mitigation information (because emissions data was not available by the time the first draft was sent out).

Secretary Small reviewed the steps outlined for moving forward and noted that DNREC will maintain a strong commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through its participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and its Renewable Portfolio standards, among others. Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative proceeds have and can continue to help support these climate change activities. Secretary Kee noted that he was in favor of the steps to move forward and that engaging the public and stakeholders will be important.

Secretary Small looked to the group for their strong endorsement to move forward and accept the Progress Report. Members voted unanimously to approve the document and submit to the Governor, including additional minor edits.

Minor edits/comments are due to DNREC by Dec 16, 2016. DNREC staff will then work with the graphic designer for the final version and send to the printer. A press release will be issued when the document is available for the public. It will be posted on the website, and print copies will be made available to citizens.

Public Comments

A member of the public who works for the solar industry attended the meeting and complimented the state for moving on climate change and clean energy and would like to see actions to enhance the public's education about solar and look at community based solar programs and programs like Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE).

Attendees

- Secretary Ed Kee, DDA
- Karen Field-Rogers, DOE
- Rick Perkins, DHSS
- Secretary David Small, DNREC

- Secretary Jennifer Cohan, DeIDOT
- Patricia Cannon, DEDO
- Bert Scoglietti, OMB
- Connie Holland, OSPC
- Stephen Bayer, OSPC
- Karen Horton, DSHA
- Morgan Ellis, DNREC
- Susan Love, DNREC
- Jennifer de Mooy, DNREC
- Kerri Yandrich, DNREC
- Damian DeStefano, Office of the Governor
- Rob McGinty, citizen